Black Students Flee Clemson, Cite 'Fear'

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CLEMSON, S.C., Oct. 27 (UPI) — Sixty Negro students fled Clemson University Sunday in "fear and complete panic," but their leader urged them today to come back to the campus.

"We have been assured the administration will do all in its power to protect students from physical harm," said Joe Grant, president of the Student League of Black Identity.

Grant said the students fled the school after they protested use of the Confederate flag at sports events and a student skit "stereotyping" the Negro.

Dr. Robert C. Edwards, Clemson president, appealed to the Negro students earlier today to return, saying he saw no reason for them to be afraid. The students had said they feared violence from whites but the reasons for their fears were not clear.

Two weeks ago, the league objected to lines in a skit being rehearsed for "Tigerama," a student home coming variety show. The league complained that a skit portrayed assistant trainer Herman McGee, a Negro, in a "hambone" manner.

The sponsors of the event removed the controversial portion before the show was performed.

The group also protested use of the Confederate flag by cheerleaders at football games. The Negroes met with the school's central spirit committee and it was decided the flag would be used for the remainder of the season and then discontinued.